

THE REASONS ¹⁵

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Translated out of the french copies.

at. Dort.
Printet by.

George Waters.

Bohemia

K *Lancaster*

THE REASONS

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Archduke Ferdinand &c. & insisted
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Together.

WITH THE PROPO

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the choice of the Elector Palatine to be King of Bohem
and by the States of that Kingdom in their
public assembly on the 16. of August
being the birth day of the same
Electoral Palatine.

Translated out of the French copy.

Ed. Dorr.
Printed by.

George Warton.

VERY CONSIDERABLE REASONS VVHY THE ARCH-DVKE

Ferdinand neither could, nor indeede ought to be
admitted to the gouernment & possession of the
kingdome of *Bohemia*; &cet.



He was not chosen king of *Bohemia* ac-
cording to the accustomed manner, &
the ancient obserued priuiledges of
that kingdome; but rather was never
chosen at all; only would bee admitted
& Crowned; as shall bee cleared in the
amplifying of this first, & the third Arti-
cle.

Hee attayned to this comming in & Coronation (which
was done in the life time of the Emperour *Mathias*) by fini-
ster meanes, & vnlawfull practises, thorough the suggestion,
& ayde of some vnfaithfull, & disloyall Members of that king-
dome; corrupted partly by guiftes & promises; & partly by
sharpenes of threatnings where with they were attempted by
the States for the time being, & for that purpose assembled.
Which election (notwithsta^ding) was made vpo^t this conditiō;
that if hee did not punctually observe his promises, the States
were neither by oath, nor by any other way obliged vnto
him.

Hee did not only not obserue the conditions; but diuers
 waies directly, & *de facto* cōtrariied that oath wick he had made
 to the States, and those *Reuersall letters* which hee hath given
 the Provinces; & (wick is more) hee did not only intrude into
 the government of that kingdome in the life time of the
 Emperour *Mathias*; but after his death, as hee hath done while
 hee liued, & (indeede much more) declared himself an open
 Enemie there; & all this, to the end, to roote out the true Reli-
 gion in those partes, & to deprive & Frustrate the States of
 that Crowne and the incorporated Countries; as of the free
 Election of a King, so of their other Priviledges; and (of pur-
 pose) to bring them wholie vnder the Spanish yoke: wherby
 hee Forfaicted all hee could there pretend vnto, after the death
 of the Emperour *Mathias*; & so did absolutely dissolve & loose
 the oath of fidelitie given him by that Kingdome, & those
 Provinces; as shall hereafter in another more ample declara-
 tion, (not yet published) bee particularly demonstrated to
 the view of all the world; this Following exposition seruing in
 the meane time, for a breefe information on every point.

For the first reason; it may be vniuersally knowne, that the
 Bohemian Nation hath allwayes, ever since the Countrey was
 inhabited, had the free election of their Prince; which from
 time to time, (Carefull of holding their owne due) they haue
 obserued, as much as in them lay that were true to the State of
 their Coimtrie, as will plainly appeare both by Histories, &
 by their priviledges, & other rules proper vnto the. And this
 Free Election (their ancient custome) hath since also beene
 yeilded & confirmed vnto them, authentically, from Empe-
 rours, by their *Golden Bulles*, & increase of Priviledges. For ex-
 ample,

ample, there are yet to bee seene the originals, of three *Golden Bulles* of th^e Emperour *Frederick*, dated in the yeares of our lorde 1212, 1216, & 1231; by which he confirmed the Kings, chosen by the States; & said expressely: *That the States of that Kingdome haue power to choose a King of their owne free will; and that the Romane Emperours were to giue their Regall rights to him whom they elected.* This acknowledgment and confirmation hath been reiterated by diuers other *Golden Bulles*, and letters patentes of the Emperour *Charles* the 4.th in the yeares 1348 & 1370; wher by is made a reassurance vnto them of the Priviledges granted by the Emperour *Frederick*; wherein (besides) is a more ample mention made, that the Bohemians haue free power to elect a King; & it is agreeably confirmed by the *Golden Bulle* of the same Emperour (at that time King of *Bohemia*) which he granted to the whole *Romane Empire*. Where speaking of the *Seauen Electors*; what belongses to their office in particular, & what Principalities might fall to the Empire; the seaventh chapter hath these words. *That if any of their principalities come to be voide, or chance to fall to the Emperour, it shall bee in the power of the Emperour or the King then raigning, to haue the ordering of it, as of a thing lawfully, fallen to him and the Empire; Saving alwayes the Priviledges, rightes, and Statuts of Bohemia, touching the free Election of a King; in case that Kingdome should come to be voide; and Saving those likewise of the Empire that haue power and right to choose a King of Bohemia; according to the tenour of their Priviledges, and those good and ancient Customes (besides,) which they haue obtained of the Emperours and Kings of the Romanes: which by this law and Imperiall Edict wee haue no meaning to derogate from, or to preindice in any kind whatsoever; but most religiously to protect them, and to cause them to be observed, not onlie for the present, but everlastinglye for the time to come; in everie point and Article agreeing with their true forme and tenour.*

4
now. & yet, as it is more largely expressed in that Golden Bull
given at *Neuremberghe* 1356, & published.

Now howsoever *Charles* the 4.th after he had confirmed
the Bull of the Emperour *Frederick*, did withall adde some
other clause to the confirmation (which doubtlesse he did for
the aduantage of himselfe & his successours) that is to say, *The*
“ *intēt thereof ought to bee thus understood; that in case the issue male or*
“ *Female of the direct line Royall should come to faile; that*
“ *then the free Election of a King shall bee in the power of the*
“ *States of Bohemia and the Provinces belonging to that Kingdome.*

This exposition (not withstanding) tooke no place, nor was
ever obserued. First, bycause it was directlie contrarie to anci-
ent Statute & custome; & against the meaning of that Bull of
the Emperour *Frederick*. Secondly, suppose it possible such a
law might haue beene obserued; it could yet extend no fur-
ther then to the race of the Emperour *Charles*, as descended
from the howse of *Luxenburgh*; that is to say, vntill the death of
his two sones, *Wenceslaus* & *Sigismund*; who after they had been
Romane Emperours & Kings of *Bohemia*, died without any
lineall Heyre; & left none to succede but their sister *Elizabeth*,
married to *Albertus* Archduke of *Austria*; to whom shee
brought a sonne called *Vladislaus*. After the decease of this
Vladislaus, the States of *Bohemia* by vertue of their freedoms,
& priuiledges, elected a King: who was neither of the howse of
Luxenburg, nor of that of *Austria*; namelic King *George* of *Kūstat*;
whom the howse of *Austria* was so farre from not approoving
of, as on the contrary *Frederick* the third, the first of that
Familie, then Emperour of the Romanes, did confirme & ra-
tifie the priuiledges of the Kingdome of *Bohemia* to the sayd
K. *George*; as doth ampie appeare by the sayed confirmation,
dated, 1459. Thence it may easilie bee scene, that the forelaid
clause,

clause, and condition inserted in the confirmation of *Charles* the 4.th was vtterlie abolished; & by that meanes the Kingdome of *Bohemia* is declared free, & not tied to anie particular race or familie,

And that *Bohemia* hath a Freedome of Election, & is in no kind a Kingdome hereditarie; the following example will iustifie for although King *George* left sonnes behind him; yett there was not one of them that euer came either to governe, or to bee elected there. But after the fathers departure, the *Bohemians* elected & crowned *Vladislaus*; of the Familie of the Princes of *Lituania*, sonne to *Casimir* King of *Polonia*; Anno 1471. On whom the Emperour *Frederick* conferred the Tenures, & confirmed them vnto him; as it is to bee seene at large in the Act for that purpose, 1480. Now where it will bee objected that this King *Vladislaus* by his *letters patentes* in the favour of his daughter *Anne*, (first acknowledging that the States of *Bohemia* meerely of their owne free will had crowned, & received his sonne *Lewijs* for their King) did the ordaine that his sonne *Lewijs* comming to die without issue; the inheritance of the Kingdome should remaine with his daughter *Anne*; to that obiection, this Aufwere. Since (as hath alieadie beene said) the clause of restraint inserted by *Charles*, is wholie annihilated; & that the States haue had their Election free; (as by examples there hath sufficient testimonie beene given) that is to say, that the howse of *Austria* inherited not the succession of the Kingdome after the election of King *George*; nor even the sonnes of the same *George* preferred against the choyse of *Vladislaus* King of *Polonia*; by the same authoritie of reason (therefore) it was much lesse in the power and prerogatiue of *Vladislaus* to ordaine his
 B daughter

daughter heyre to the Kingdome, against the priviledges of the countrey; without both the cōvocatiō & the consēt of the States, so as (indeede) she could not in hærit the Kingdō after her Father but after her Brother: & was *Queene* then, but as being the wife of another elected King. That there was no convocation of the States, it is an vnquestionable truth, & it followes necessarilie, they gave not their consēt, neyther did they euer permitt her in anie thing effectually to enioye the government. But after King *Lewys* was fallen in betaille, & that the heroyque Prince *Ferdinand* Archducke of *Austria* had married the lady *Anne*, that sister of King *Lewys*; the States of *Bohemia* (then) of their owne free will, & by vertue of their priviledges; elected Archducke *Ferdinand* for their King 1526. Indeepe the King according to custome being once crowned as soveraigne, the lady *Anne*, afterwarde, was crowned as his companion, and no otherwise. And if evē at that time, the Freedome of the States election will yett bee quarrelled with al, lett King *Ferdinands* Reversale letters bee enquired of, they will satisfie for it. They were givē at *Vienne* the 13.th of Decemb. 1526. And for their better strength the oath hee gave the States will declare it selfe.

But there hath verie latelie beene discovered a strange fact committed vpon those *Reversale letters* of *Ferdinand* the Emperour done without the knowledge, much lesse the consent of the bodie of the States. The said letters having beene copied in parchment out of the originall, & inserted to the other priviledges of the Countrey in a booke expressely appointed for that purpose; (& that the originall it selfe was placed there with other priviledges; & that the sayd *Reversale letters*,

letters themselves, as it is sayd were annexed to the statutes & ordinances of the Countrey for the space of nineteene yeares together, remaines yet to bee seene: it is now found out that after the expiration of those nineteene yeares that is to say in the yeare 1545. some person not yet come into publique knowledge, in the Register of the Countreys customes, vppon the margine of those Reuersale letters writte these words: Following: the letters were rendered his Maiestie by the States of Bohemia in the generall Assemblie of the States of the Countrey at the castle of Prague, on mone day after the Ascention of the most blessed Virgin Mary in the yeare 1545. & in place of those there were other letters given to the sayd States of the Kingdome in the Bohemian tongue, which were likewise inserted into this booke in the lease & set Done at the castle of Prague the wenesday after St. Agidins day 1545. ibn

Now that this point vvas in this manner euer effected, or that the States in their full Assemblie did ever render those Reuersale letters to the King & receaved other patents in their place, it can no way bee found: for in the generall Assembly held the same yeare at the castle of Prague (which at this day remaines quoted in the register of the Countrey) there is not any mention made thereof; no not so much as in the proposition it selfe then opened on the parte of the king. Neyther were the letters patents supposed to bee given in steede of the first assurances, according to that former addition written in the sayd booke; but afterwards included in another. It may thence bee easely iudged that the writer of those added words (whosoever hee was) did it out of a privat authority, to please some other persons. Thence likewise it may every easely bee perceived to what ayme, the corruption was directed

8
sted; namely by this meanes to frustrate & deprive the States
for the time to come of the Freedome of their election. As
indeede those patents doe nothing agree with the first assu-
rances, save only in this, that the states ought to looke to
themselves that the said Electiō of King Ferdinand may not de-
rogate nor be preiudiciall to theyr priviledges. But the
said Reuersalls have in them an other sense directly contrary
to all the priviledges & Freedoms of the Countrey, both old
& new, & paticularly in this that there are againe alledged
the insertions both of *Charles* the 4th. in his confirmation, &
of *Vladislaus* for the advancement of his disposition towards his
daughter, which as hath beene said, is long agoe made voyde,
& was observed only in one case alone; the States (not with-
standing) having allwayes retained the free election.

Now that this was not done to violate the previledges
rather then to confirme them wee referre to the iudgement of
the whole world. The reason why, the States have not re-
ceaved perfect knowledge of all these indirect passages vntill
now, is, that from time to time they have beene concealed by
the principall officers of the land, who were Romane Catholi-
ques, for the States in the divers pursuites of their cause, as
well to the generall Assemblies of the Countrey, as other-
wayes, could never gett so much as a hearing of the priviled-
ges read; much lesse a possession of the writings or copyes of
them.

Howsoever it is evidient that the Emperour *Ferdinand*
himselfe did very well iudge & consider that this Kingdome,
& the

& the Prouinces incorporate, were noth hereditary, & that those *letters patents* could take no place, nor bee of force with posterity against the ancient priuiledges, & Statuts. It is evident in this, that the same Emperour called a generall Assembly of the Countrey in the ycare 1549. where hee desired of the States of *Bohemia*, that Archduke *Maximilian* his eldest sonne, might after his death be received for theyr King. Which the States accorded vnto, to the end that in the life time of his Ma^{tie} his sonne might cary the name of King, vpon condition (neverthelesse) that he should not be invested in the government during the time of his father According to which condicion (& likewise by vertue of certaine interchanged articles) the coronation of King *Maximilian* & his wife the Queene mary succeeded not vntill the ycare 1562.

In like manner *Maximilian* comme to be Emperour presented his eldest sonne *Rodolphe*, & desired he might be accepted of & crowned King of *Bohemia* for the future, which the States consented vnto, accepted of him, & declared him then vpon certaine present conditiōs, & afterwards drew from him his *letters of Assurance*.

Furthermore were the Kingdome & the Provinces incorporate hereditary to the howse of *Austria*, it is to be believed, that it had been altogether vnneccessary to seeke to the States by request for the succession; since vpon the termes of inheritance every eldest sonne coming to survive the father, there must haue disceded a right vnto his owne person.

for his title to the crowne, without any intercession: as the Archdukes of Austria themselves doe exemplifie by their owne claymes to their Countreyes of inheritance. It may heerevnto bee added that from the acceptation, & declaration of those two Kings *Maximilian* & *Rodolphe* there can no prejudice fall vpon the freedome of election, since both of them being the eldest sonnes of Kings of *Bohemia* their successe in all reason might happen to bee the more easy, & yet it was not done without both seeking & obtaining the willing consent of the States. Thence therefore there can no argument be drawne that the States by that Act have quitted the right of their free election.

If yet there will bee something inferred thence to the contrary; the proceeding of *Rodolphe* himselfe will confesse that inference an errour. For being vnmarried, & without children, it was the designe of *Archduke Mathias* as eldest brother to his Imperiall Ma^{ty}, to procure himselfe first nominated King of *Bohemia*, the Emperour yet living; & by the intercession of his Ma^{ty}, that afterwards hee might bee elected and crowned according to custome. And in this case where lineall heyres have fayled, it never sufficed the conferring of the succession vpon another to have these words vsed only: *Acceptation, Declaration, and Coronation*; but there was allwayes regard had aswell of the one parte as the other, to the saving of the free election, which the States have by vertue of their ancient priuiledges from *Frederick* the Emperour & others. As indeede the Emperour *Rodolphe* himselfe also did anew in all indifferent vnderstandings very authentically confirme & ratifie the same priuiledges to the States in this point, that his Ma^{ty}, sought and interceded to them for his brother the Archduke

Archducke *Matthias*, that by vertue of their Priviledges & freedoms, & of their owne bountie, & free will, they would first designe his brother for King of *Bohemia*, & afterwards electe him. Accordingly the Archducke *Matthias* observed the same sense, & desired hee might bee elected after the ordinary custome. It followes that his Ma^{tie} the Emperour interceding, & the Archducke being so elected, they haue both of them very manifestly acknowledged & confirmed that in such a case howsoever, (if not otherwise where the right line is extinguished) the States haue a free election. Which besides the authority, it receaves from Priviledges & customes of auncient vse it hath more the sufficiently beene ratified likewise, not only by a contract passed before *Prague* in the yeare 1608. betweene his Imperiall Ma^{tie} the Archducke, & the Provinces; but also by the proposition made on the parte of the same Emperour in the generall Assembly of the States, & by the letters of assurance from both their Maties Imperiall and Royall.

Moreover the States of the Reformed church of the Crowne of *Bohemia*, (after the persecutions they had susteyned) were competently provided for by his Ma^{tie} the Emperour *Rodulphe* their King with an *edict of pacification*, vpon the cause of Religion, & the free exercise thereof, according to the agreement with the generall Assembly, of the States, in the yeare 1608. & as it hath since beene confirmed in 1610. at the request of the Electors of the Empire solicited by the States. And their sayd Maties confirmed certayne accords passed betweene those of the Religion of the Gospell, & the Romane Catholicks, as also betweene those of the Religion of the Gospell themselves. And all this for the conservation, & ad-

& advancement of mutuall amitie and agreement, in such a manner that in whome soever the least opposition or contradiction that can be imagined should bee found to bee intended against that edict of pacification, or the other accords, he should be proceeded against as a disturber of the publicke quyet.

From these proceedings our people generally did promise themselves that thence forth they should live in a peaceable condition together, both vnder his Ma^{tie}. & the succeeding Kings of *Bohemia*, & that every man might serve God safely and obey the Magistrats. But incontinently vpon it, & since likewise, these promises mett with persons of turbulent and wicked dispositions, who, by the suggestion of an evill spirit have laboured to make the world vnderstand, that nothing could bee more contrary, to their mindes then the free election of a King, & the free exercise of Religion. And out of that malevolent nature refused to signe the *edict of pacification*, & the agreements passed with the matter depending on them which his Imperiall Ma^{tie}. & other peaceable Roman Catholik estates had by example invited them vnto, but bente themselves with all their might partly by their secret conspiracies, & Fraudulent practices, & partly by abusing their offices, & by their impudent malice to overthrowe the whole worke of peace, & to dispose even his Ma^{tie}. himselfe to the consent of this ruine, not with standing that presently vpon it in a publike Assembly of the States they were protested against that in case the States of the Religion of the Gospell should come to be yet further molested, the offence should be imputed to them alone, & they should be proceeded against as troublers, & infringers of the publicke quyet. This caution wrought no regard in them, but on the
contrary

contrary, they were so farre from it, as even in the life time of the Emperour *Mathias*, it was the principall point of their study to provide themselves for the time to come of such a Lord as their enterprises might expect countenance, & assistance from. And indeede they did so successfullly advance their affaires, that in the yeare 1617. they procured that Archduke *Ferdinand* of whose courles all Christendom haue taken notice, that hee was no sooner entred the government of the Countrey then hee persecuted thole of the Religion, in such a manner, as at last without making of any difference betweene the condition of person & person, he chased them quite away; & in the pursuite of his inhumanenes, hee caused the bodies of the dead to bee digged out of their graves, & exercised such cruelties upon them, as might have converted a very barbarous education to a gentlenes of nature, by beholding, or but by hearing only of the hatefulness of the persecution. This Archduke *Ferdinand* was called to *Prague*, adopted by the Emperour *Mathias* for his sonne, & afterwards by greatnes of threatnings, & by promises, & presents bestowed vpon some disloyall, & treacherous mēbers, & by their conspiracies with the enemyes of the Religion of the Gospell, hee was received, declared, & crowned for the King of *Bohemia*, to succede, but not elected. For they would by no meanes give eare to the moving of an election during the whole time of the giving of voices.

Now touching the other things of passage in this admission, & coronation; it shall be spoken of in the second article. This shall suffice to conclude with, for the first point, that he was not chosen King of *Bohemia* according to the accustomed order, nor the vertue of the ancient observation of the Priviledges, & Statuts of the Countrey.

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For the seacond reason, that is to say, how the admission, & coronation came to passe, there hath some what already been spoken, & in what fashion of cariage the disloyall members were bravely employed, to reach the end of their pernicious designs. To which this that followes likewise offers it selfe. At the very time of the convocation of the Assembly of the States of the Countrey, the States were by *letters patents* forbidden to treat there of any other thing, then the point touching a successor to the crowne, which is a crime not only contrary to the aucient observation, but opposed also the decree made in the generall Assembly of the Countrey anno 1610 where it is expressely, delivered, that in all the Assemblies of the States, it shall bee free & lawfull for them; (immediatly after the deliberation of the proposition made on the part of the King) to set before them the Articles of the publick griefes which then ought to be taken into mature advice & to be ordred, & applyed remedy vnto, before the rising of the Assembly. This was the reason that many of the States made difficultie to appeare in an Assemblie so exorbitant. And those which were there, gavetheir testimonies by their voyces against such proceeding, as a thing infringing the franchises, & privileges of the kingdome, adding that the Provinces incorporate were not called thither: with these (not withstanding) it was concluded in the holding of the last Assemblie of the States, as pretending to haue right in the giving of their voices for the election of a King; hauing first resolved & accorded with the Provinces. These States (I say) were threatned aswell by the vnfaithfull members, as by others, & in such a maner, as it was professed that if any man would undertake to carie his suffrage another way, he had neede be
furnished

furnished with two heads, & must looke to be dealt with all as stragely as some others had beene not many yeares agoe. and seeinge it was impossible to coutermine their practises, and to with stand the whole faction of the Romanists; who had fished vp & downe to call in such as had little or nothing to loose in the countrie, that those of the Religion were overborne by the plurality of voices: it must then come to this necessitie, that whether they would or not, they were to give way to the acceptation, and Coronation. Which (never thelesse) was not yeelded vnto, without conditions. For the Archduke *Ferdinand* gave the States his *Reversal letters*, among the Articles whereof these are some that follow.

1 That he thanked the States, & would be carefull to acknowledge them with gratioufnes, & Royall benevolence; in such a measure as they should receive all contentement from his Ma^{tie}.

2 That during the life of the Emperour *Mathias* he would not invest himself in the Governmēt of the Kingdome; nor would he putt himselfe vpon it, without the knowledge & consent, as well of his Ma^{tie}. & the principall officers & Presidents of the Countrie; as of the Councillors of Estate, & of his Ma^{tie}. Finances, & of the chiefe Lords of the Countrie; of two personnes of the communaltie of every circuit; of sixe of the towne of *Prague* & of other Townes deputed in the assemblie of the States of the Land.

3 That if during the life of the Emperour he shall vndertake to enter the Government; in that case the Estates shall no way be held, or bound to render him anie obedience or dutie of Fidelitie.

Now in what fashion King *Ferdinand* hath made good his

oath, & observed his *Reversall letters*, it is notorious to the whole world; & shall briefly be showne in the third Article following.

3.

Concerning then the third & last reason; namely why King *Ferdinand* is reiected; & how he hath deprived himselfe, & made himselfe vncapable of the acceptation & Coronation; & in summe of all else depending thereon which he might pretend vnto.

It is a thing most noted & manifest, that the vnfaithfull members, together with the pernicious sect of the Iesuites, after the coronation became so insolent, that they did instantly set a foote diuerse persecutiōs, not only as principally in the kingdome of *Bohemia*, but also in the principalities of the vpper & lower *Silesia*; & in many places against the States of the Religion of the Gospell, & the free exercise thereof; & expressely against the prohibition contained in the *edict of pacification*; besides this the Churches of the Religion some they caused to be blocked vp, & some they puld downe to the very grounde, the persons they caste into prison, & there held them long. And at last cut of all access & audience betweene his Ma^{tie}. the Emperour, & the States of *Bohemia*, as also betweene him & the defendants ordained by the consent of his Ma^{tie}. forbad their Assemblies, directly against the meaning of the law, & condēned thē without eyther accusation or hearing. The Iesuites with much passiō of ioy writ to Archduke *Leopold* the advertisement of this coronation, & put it in printe, confessing & reporting that Archduke *Ferdinand*, aswell before, as at his entrāce to the government of his hereditary Countries, was bound by oath to affect rather the loosing of blood, & life, then to agree in the leaste measure that could be about matter of Religion in fauour of the Hereticks, meaning, the true believing Christiāns.

As it may particularly & at large be vnderstood in the defences & griefes of this land which are published.

From these vnlawfull oppressions it grew to this, by the conspiracies of those false Statesmen, that for a long time they looked after no other subiect then warre, & the effusion of blood in so much as the late Emperour was caried away & suborned by the, to the invading of this faire Kingdome, and the inhabitants with an armie which hath destroyed a good parte of it by pillage, fire, & sword. Wherein King *Ferdinad* did not only giue testimonie that he tooke contentment but (which is more) became himself both a Counsaillour, and an executor against the Kingdome; & intruded into the Government thereof, to be inuelted before his time, thereby raising his purpose to be a cause of infinite vn sufferable oppressions & calamities: The truth whereof is as cleere as day. For the world can not be ignorant that he invested himselfe in the Government while the Emperour *Mathias* was yet living; in so much as against the will of the Emperour he did both cast, & imprison *Cardinall Klesel* President of the Privie Councell, & one of whose employment his Ma^{tie}. receiued service in all his Consayls. Further in that the said *Ferdinand* did not only advise a warre against this Kingdome, but also employed his owne Forces, which he had in *Friauil*, to invade the land, commanding them to make spoile of it & to put the inhabitants to fire & sword.

Item for having himselfe in person held an Assembly in the *Marquisat of Moravia*, against the Kingdome of *Boheme*, where he demaunded, both to ioine the troupes of *Moravia* to those of the Emperour, & their passage through the said *Marquisat*; & then indeed, partly by faire words, partly by threat-

28
nings he perswaded the States of *Moravia* to allow of the passage.

Item for having, after the decease of the Emperour, not only taken into his pay & service all the forces, & open enemies of that Kingdome; but also caused all the levies, made before to be advanced, & brought in many thousand Spaniards, and other forces; by meanes whereof horrible cruelties, & tyrannies were exercised, by fire, & sword, & Sackings: both in *Bohemia*, and *Moravia*, & much greater then in the time of the Emperour *Matthias*, insomuch that they spared neyther old nor young, men nor women, no not the inno cent babes, whereof many of them were in their mothers bellies : & which is more in worse then a Barbarous fashion digged their bodies out of their graves, stripped them, & binding their hands & feet together, laid them stark naked in a horrible manner upon the altars, & sett them at the doores of Churches.

And though it be well knowne to the world that he never entred into possession of this Kingdome ; yet not withstanding, he hath not forborne by his letters to make choice of, & to admit for his lieutenants the aforesaid treacherous patriots who are the source, & originall cause of all this evill : some of which he hath yet by his person; who for being perfidious to this Kingdome & for other great consideracions were banished, of whome (notwith standing) he doth serve himselfe both in his Counsailes, & Embassages manifesting thereby that he doth approve of all the mischieffe they haue donne even vntill this present for the abolishing, & cassatiō of the franchises, & Priviledges of the Countrey, & that he makes more account of such men, then of the whole Kingdome: by which every one may easely iudge, what the Provinces may expect or hope for of such a lord.

Especially

Especially if wee consider withall the *contracts & treaties* which have passed betwene the king of Spaine & King Ferdinand, not only for so much as concerneth the Kingdome of Bohemia, & the incorporated Provinces thereof, but chiefly also concerning the free Kingdome of *Hungarie* & that this was donne even then, when he was neither yet received, nor crowned in any of the two Kingdomes; which *treaties* as then were, kept secret & concealed from the Provinces, but discovered afterwards & brought to light by a singular, & divine providence. In those treaties the free election & the priviledges (which the sayd two Kingdomes have by vertue of that election) are entirely cut of, & appropriated hereditarily to the King of Spaine & his Successors; in such sorte as the King of Spaine doth now quit & yeeld this hereditarie right vnto King Ferdinand; but with this restriction, that vpon default of heyres males of the race of King Ferdinand, the sayd two Kingdomes, with the depending Provinces, shall fall by right of succession to the King of Spaine, his heyres & Successors: as indeede the sayd Archduke Ferdinand, ever since the sayd contracts were passed hath changed the old style, wherewith the precedent Emperours and Kings of Boheme alwayes contented themselves; for that the Emperours Ferdinand, Maximilian, & Rodalphe did ordinarily write: *Our Kingdomes and Provinces hereditarie*; but the Archduke Ferdinand doth write now in this fashion: *Our Kingdomes hereditarie and Provinces*. By this we may againe easily iudge, what was the drift of King Ferdinand, & why hee would not be choлен; but only acknowledged in Bohemia; namely to suppress the free election, & accordingly to be lieutenant of the King of Spaine in these Countreyes, vntill such time as hee had in the end entirely reduced them to the

to the Spanish yoke, & servitude. But if the States had then had any knowledge of the said contracts, doubtlesse they had sufficient cause, both to contradict, & oppose themselves against it. For all men know, that the Kings of those Kingdomes which are not hereditarie, but subsiste by a free election, (as hath beene formerly prooved touching the Kingdome of *Bohemia*) cannot make any contract with a stranger Prince without the approbation & consent of the States, & all such treaties are in themselves voide & of none effect. Such & the like treaties might proove exceeding daungerous to the Empire; for by this meanes the king of *Spain* would thrust in a foote to the Empire, as King of *Bohemia*, from whence would necessarily followe that he must be Elector of the Empire, by vertue of the Golden bull of the Emperour *Charles* the 4. th & so hereafter would affect & pretend also to be King of the Romans, at which all the Spanish practises doe leuell and ayme, which would be expressely contrary to the *Golden Bull*, & the oath of the other Electors; as also against the ordinances & constitutions of the Empire, & by this meanes the Imperiall crowne would be quite taken away from the German nation, & be made entirely hereditarie as they haue endeavored, & practised to make the Crowne of *Bohemia*. All which, together with that hath been written by the States of *Bohemia* to the College of Electors lately held at *Francford*: as also how they protested against the election of the person of King *Ferdinand* to the crowne of the Kings of the Romanes, will plainly appere by their writings.

Since then in regard hereof the Provinces haue acknowledged, & plainly secne, that it was most daingerous, & indeed impossible to enter into any treatie with such a lord, who

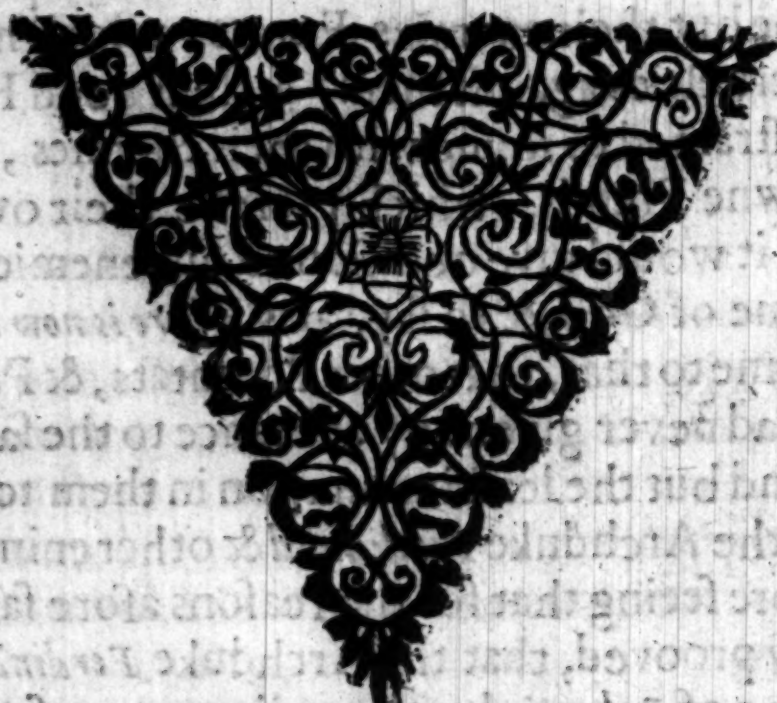
is not

is not of himselfe, who speakes & writes peaceably, but harboureth warre & bloodshed in his hart ; much lesse for the reasons aforesaid receive him into the Government, whereof he hath many ways deprived himselfe : let vs consider the pernicious consequence that this would have brought with it. First hereby the said treaties with Spaine would have beene confirmed. Secondly the States could not expect of such a Lord any certainty or assurance in point of Religion or State. And thirdly without doubt the States must have payed, not only their owne but their enemies Forces, which have exercised so many cruelties against them, & their good Friends, & have been constrained to ioyne with their enemies , & march against their owne Friends, which pofesse their owne Religion. Fourthly it would give occasion to our enemies to blaspheme the name of God, & to say, alas *where is now their God?* And fifthly it came to that, that other Potentats, & Princes, of the Religion had never given any assistance to the said States, if they had found but the least inclination in them to enter into treaty with the Archduke *Ferdinand* & other enimies.

And therefore seeing that for the reasons afore said, it hath ben sufficiently prooved, that the Archduke *Ferdinād* was never elected King of *Bohemia* by the ordinary course, & that he himselfe, hath deprived himselfe , & hath forfeited both the acceptation and the coronation, which was conditionally conferred vpon him (as before) by not observing either his *letters of assurance*, or oath: As also seing he hath exercised manifest tyrannies in the Kingdome, & passed contracts with the house of *Spaine* without the consent or knowledge of the States : For theise reasons, they vnderstand, & finde themselves to be free from him, & not any way tyed vnto him in what kinde soever.

D And

And for the same reasons, agreeable both to divine and humane right, (with the aide of the Almighty) they have taken the Freedome to elect another King, as shall be more fully declared to the world in a Manifestation hereafter to be published.



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A PROPOSITION

made by the *States of Bohemia*, in their Assemblie at
Prague vpon the Election of a King; the 16. of August,
1619. being the Birth-daie of the Prince
Electoꝛ Palatine.



Lbeit the nomination of a King of *Bohemia*, requires a mature counsell and deliberation; which ought to precede the nomination; in this point (never thelesse) there is not so much difficultie, as in the reiecting of a King; which gave a beginning to this. and stands in need both of a good Iustification, and of a great Power, wheare the nomination hath no neede of those aides, but of it self followes, after the reiection.

Now therefore since the Reiection (as the thing more importing vs) is alreadie donne; the Nomination will be much the more easie, provided we stand not vpon such a perfection in the choice, as the whole world can not yeeld vs. It behooves vs to set apart all particular passions, and to have regard (only) to those reasons which are Fundamentall. For theare are pointes requisite, so necessarie to be considered

dered in the Election of a King; as it is not for any good Patriot to giue his advice for the receiving of one in whom those things required are not to be found. But we may with verie good assurance conclude for him, in whom they meete, more than in any other man.

1 As in the first place, it is needefull that in such a person, there be none of those matters to be feared for which *King Ferdinand* was reiected. That is to say, that he ought not either to persecute, or advance any for the respect of Religion, nor to exceede in the dependance of his owne counsellors, or of strangers; but to ioyne himself with the States. He ought not to be opinionative, nor given to doe things of his owne head, but to accomodate the coustumes of his house, and his, to the ordinances and liberties of this crowne.

2 In the seacond place, it is required, that he affect the Estates with an acknowledgement of reputation.

3 Thirdly, that in time both of peace and warre, he governe his Kingdome by his owne prelence; worthily, and profitably.

4 Fourthly that the Confederates may receiue no
cause

25

cause of feare from him, either of danger, or damage.

Since then thear are fyue who are inferred into the treatie of this Election; that is to say, the *King of Denmarke*, the *Electoꝛ Palatine* the *Electoꝛ of Saxonie*, the *Duke of Savoy*, and the *Prince of Transilvania*, it will be thearfore to purpose to consider, that although there be not any one of these Princes in his owne particuler; but is of merit both to be Praised and recommended; thear is among them (notwithstanding) a certaine diversitie which everie one by himself may prudently waigh. And for-as-much as it is not permitted vs to iudge liberally of great Princes; in this place (thearfore) it shall suffice, without offence to any, briefly to deduce the reasons for which the *Electoꝛ Palatine* ought to be esteemed verie capeable of the Crowne of *Bohemia*, & fit to mainteyne the present estate of the Kingdome. For although he be not yet above twentie three; he is a Prince (nevertheles) endued with a great iudgement, bred vp from his Cradle in goodnes and vertue: holdes continually about him persons of great qualitie, as well for the field, as the state: accustomed to courtesie; in himself of verie plentiful

hopes: and at this Age he will better forme himself to the coustumes of the Kingdome, than yf he were more increassed in years. And god bestowes not wisdom alwaies according to the Age of a man but vpon him that calles to god for it in his feare.

He is a Prince, moderat, vertuous & resolute in his Actions; quicke & sharp in his discourse, true courteous towards all men; well languaged; holds a faire court, of Earles, Barons, and Gentlemen; loves, and cherishes the Nobilitie: imployes eue men of meane condition in his service, when he findes desert in the for it; and will let no worthie service passe him without his acknowledgement; His subiects and countrie (in part the Frontiers of this Kingdome) he governes with Prudence; gives estimation to men of honour; holdes a well-ordered-councell; frequentes the Councell table in his owne person; takes exact heede to the opinions, & propositions of his Councillours; gives good cause to haue his owne iudgement approved, and commended in things of importance; inclines willinglie to the informations of other men; loves the common good, and therein takes paines, with zeale, and without feare: beares Compassiō to the afflicted; shewes himself laborious
and

and resolved; is beloved of his subjects; carries himself peaceably with his neighbours, of what Religion so ever they be; and for that winnes respect even of those of different beliefes. For his owne Religion, he is well-affected; yet thear is not any in his countries though of an other Profession, that findes him selfe disquieted for matter of conscience or in the exercyse of his Religion; so-as everie man may with freedome live vnder him, provided his conversation be honest, and good.

Thear is none that can accuse him either of præcipation, or opinionativeness; a thing verie remarkable.

He is in good correspondence with those of the Houses *Palatine* and of *Baviers*; and yet for that reaso forsakes nothing either of those rightes, or of those duties belonging to the generall State of the country.

And howsoever he is a Prince but yong, & shewes himself courteous, & sweete towards his people; for all that thear is neither lightnes, dissolutenes nor voluptuousnes seene in him; nor any disorder, or excesse at all in his diet; nor any avarice, prodigalitie or other thing what soever, vnagrecable, or contrary to

ric to the reputation of a Prince.

For the assistance the Crowne of *Bohemia* may expect frō him; it is cleare to everie mā's vnderstāding, that he is not only not in debt; and that of his Revenue he can lay something vp, but also that the King of *Great Britaine* is his Father in law; the King of *Denmarck* his neare Ally, and lykewise the Elector of *Brandenburgh*: the Prince of *Orange* his vncle; the Duke of *Buillon* his Ally; the States of the vnited Provinces of the low-countries his confæderates; the King of *Sweden*, and the *Hanse Townes* his friends; and for his correspondentes, the Duke of *Savoy*, *venice*, and *Swisserland*. He is in good credit with all the Princes Electors, and other Princes, and States of the Empyre, more particularly with those of the vnion. He hath confæderacies, and auncient Alliances with *Fraunce*. The Prince of *Transilvania* & high *Hungarie* bears him affection. *Saxonie*, and *Bavier* are in good tearmes with him. *Mentz*, and the neighbour-countries do looke vpon him with honour and respect. In-so-much as the Crowne of *Bohemia* by his only meanes may get the amitie of all those, which we doe now seeke with so much labour, and travayle; and by the same meanes we may be conserved, and fortified
against

against our enemies ; which from any other treated of in the Election can neither be expected , nor hoped for.

And since it is a certayntie that this Prince would not accept of the Election for ambitions-sake , but only for the common-good ; we may therefore promise our selves that he will ever cōtinue in the good affectiō he hath alreadie showne towards this crowne, by the profitable counsels, and assistances, which as well in his owne person, as by other waies (according to the occasion) he hath made to appeare: when some others, for theyr particular considerations, haue greatlie praiudized both the States of the Kingdome of *Bohemia*, and the countries , and Provinces confederate.

Those Provinces confederate , who are alreadie in good vnderstanding with this Prince, have to consider, that they can not ground the lyke confidence vpon others: (who are to much tied in respect of the *house of Austria*) for the receiving of a succour in time of their need. And in this case the confederacie might bring them rather praiudice , than benefit; a thing exceedingly importing this crowne; as may be seene by experience,

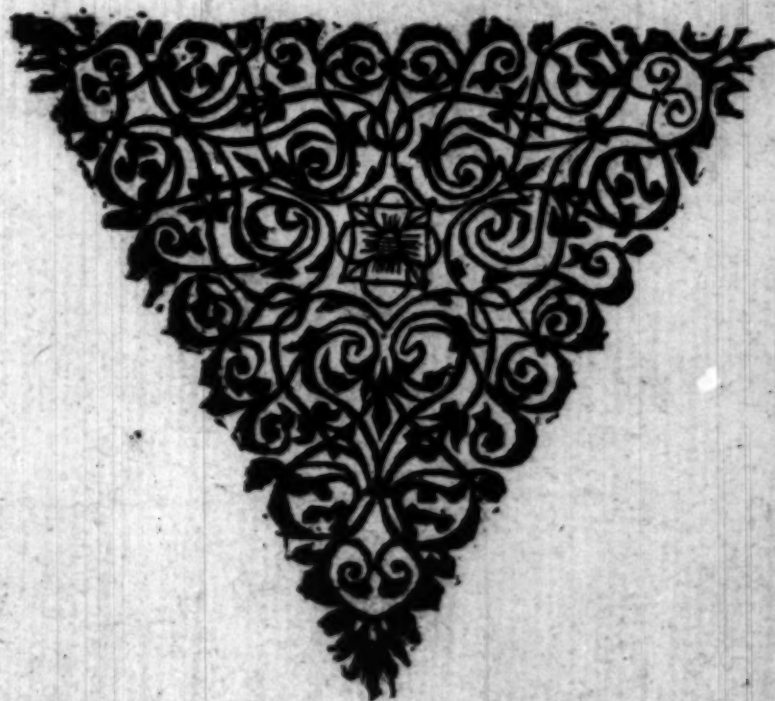
Since then those qualities required, are found all to meete in the person of the *Prince-Elector-Palatine*; and that in those of the other Princes spoken of in this Election (the Prince of *Transylvania* excepted: who hath his eye vpon an other marke) though in themselves of great worth and merit: in regard (notwithstanding) of the constitution of our State, there are many abilities wanting, (as may be easely showne): it will be to purpose therefore no longer to deferre the Electiō. And so much the rather, because the *Crowne of Bohemia*, with the countries confederate (now after the reiection) will be more disquieted than ever, and remayning without a heade, we shall finde no man that will duly vndertake our protection, or defence.

FINIS.

To the Reader.

The Reader may not expect hear of at this time so exact an impression as the subiect requireth: by reasō the Copie (out of which it was printed) was written over in hast, and by a stranger; and printed lykewise in hast, the Compositors also straungers. By reason whearof some escapes may have passed in the Orthographie, the which, being but literall, may the more easilie be pardoned, both to the Printer, and the Over-seer nor ordinarie Corrector, Vale.

John Harrison.



To the Reader

This book is intended to be a
convenient and accurate
reference to the names of the
persons who have been
appointed to the various
offices of the Government
of the United Kingdom
since the year 1700.

John Hamilton.

